Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A sanitizing container for sanitizing items with an sanitizing solution, the sanitizing container for use with a sanitizing base unit, the sanitizing container comprising:

an outer container adapted to induce a rotational flow of the sanitizing solution within the outer container and including a fluid transfer valve for removable fluid communication with the sanitizing base unit; and

an item holder for removable mating with the outer container, for holding the items in the rotational flow of the sanitizing solution ~~container~~ for sanitization.

21. (Currently amended) An item sanitizing system for sanitizing items using a sanitizing solution, the system comprising:

a container, adapted to induce a rotational flow of the sanitizing solution within the container, having a fluid transfer device and having a removable item holder for holding the items in the rotational flow of the sanitizing solution ~~container~~ for sanitization, the removable item holder being distinct from, and for removable mating with, the container;

a base for receiving the container in removable fluid communication with the fluid transfer device, said base comprising a purification technology for purification of water received from the container; and a water circulator for circulating water between the container and the purification technology.

22. (Original) The item sanitizing system according to claim 21, wherein said water circulator comprises a pump, connections, and electronic controls.

23. (Original) The item sanitizing system of claim 22, wherein said electronic controls comprise an auto-sensing circuit which detects the presence of the filtration device on the base, activates an appropriate program, and illuminates a ready light.

24. (Original) The item sanitizing system of claim 23, wherein said program is initiated when a user pushes a start button when said ready light is illuminated.

25. (Original) The item sanitizing system of claim 24, wherein said program comprises a treatment period controlled by time and/or concentration, said treatment period consisting of:

a) drawing water from the lower reservoir via a pump,

b) pumping water from (a) through the purification technology,

c) directing water from (b) back into the lower reservoir; and

d) communicating to the user via a light and/or audible alarm indicating that the container can be removed from the base.

26. (Previously presented) The sanitizing container of claim 20 wherein the item holder keeps the held items from having direct contact with the bottom of the outer container.

27. (Previously presented) The sanitizing container of claim 20 wherein the item holder is arranged for mating with an open top of the outer container, the item holder comprising:

a sidewall for mating with an inside surface of the outer container;

a lip, joined with the top of the sidewall, for mating with the open top of the outer container; and

a base joined with the bottom of the sidewall and comprising a plurality of item receiving structures.

28. (Previously presented) The sanitizing container of claim 20 wherein the item holder is arranged for mating with an open top of the outer container, and wherein the items to be sanitized have a handle end and a working end, the item holder comprising:

a center structure for mating with the open top of the outer container, the center structure having a top portion defining an opening for the handle ends of the items to be

sanitized, and having a sidewall defining a plurality of openings for fluid flow in the center structure during sanitization of the items; and

a lower tray, for mating with the bottom of the center structure, for holding working ends of the items to be sanitized.

29. (Previously presented) The sanitizing container of claim 28 wherein the lower tray comprises a plurality of item receiving structures for holding the working ends of the items to be sanitized.

30. (Previously presented) The sanitizing container of claim 20 wherein the item holder is arranged for mating with an open top of the outer container, the item holder comprising:

a center structure for mating with the open top of the outer container, the center structure having a top portion defining an opening for insertion of the items to be sanitized, a sidewall having an upper lip, and a base, the sidewall and the base defining a plurality of openings for fluid flow in the center structure during sanitization of the items; and

a top cover for mating with the upper lip of the sidewall and closing the top of the item holder.

31. (Previously presented) The item sanitizing system of claim 21 wherein the item holder keeps the held items from having direct contact with the bottom of the container.

32. (Previously presented) The item sanitizing system of claim 21 wherein the item holder keeps the held items from interfering with a flow of fluid into and out of the container via the fluid transfer device.

33. (Previously presented) The item sanitizing system of claim 21 wherein the item holder is arranged for mating with an open top of the container, the item holder comprising:

a sidewall for mating with an inside surface of the container;

a lip, joined with the top of the sidewall, for mating with the open top of the container; and

a base joined with the bottom of the sidewall and comprising a plurality of item receiving structures.

34. (Previously presented) The item sanitizing system of claim 21 wherein the item holder is arranged for mating with an open top of the container, and wherein the items to be sanitized have a handle end and a working end, the item holder comprising:

a center structure for mating with the open top of the container, the center structure having a top portion defining an opening for the handle ends of the items to be sanitized, and having a sidewall defining a plurality of openings for fluid flow in the center structure during sanitization of the items; and

a lower tray, for mating with the bottom of the center structure, for holding working ends of the items to be sanitized.

35. (Previously presented) The item sanitizing system of claim 34 wherein the lower tray comprises a plurality of item receiving structures for holding the working ends of the items to be sanitized.

36. (Previously presented) The item sanitizing system of claim 21 wherein the item holder is arranged for mating with an open top of the container, the item holder comprising:

a center structure for mating with the open top of the container, the center structure having a top portion defining an opening for insertion of the items to be sanitized, a sidewall having an upper lip, and a base, the sidewall and the base defining a plurality of openings for fluid flow in the center structure during sanitization of the items; and

a top cover for mating with the upper lip of the sidewall and closing the top of the item holder.

37. (New) The sanitizing container of claim 20 wherein the outer container comprises a flow diverter to induce the rotational flow of sanitizing fluid entering the outer container by way of the fluid transfer valve.

38. (New) The sanitizing system of claim 21 wherein the container comprises a flow diverter to induce the rotational flow of sanitizing fluid entering the container by way of the fluid transfer device.